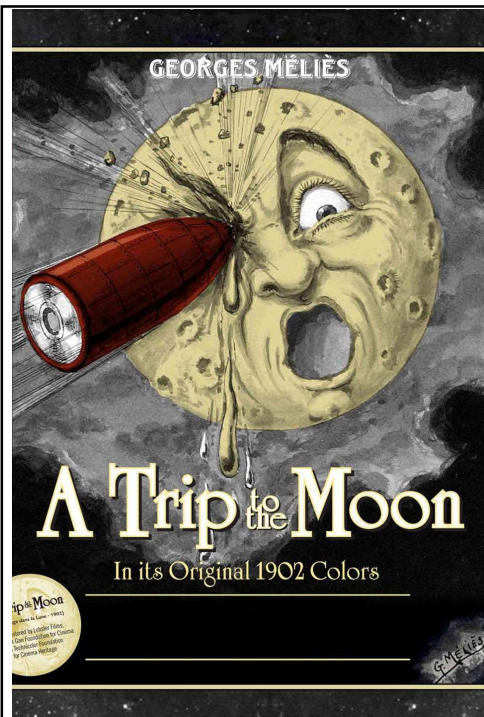




Heavenly Discourses Week 7 The Sky in Film

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Le Voyage Dans la Lun (A Trip to the Moon) by Georges Méliès (1902)



'The sky and air was clear as crystal. I hadn't flown more than two or three minutes on my course when a **bright flash** reflected on my airplane. It startled me as I thought I was too close to some other aircraft. I looked every place in the sky and couldn't find where the reflection had come from until I looked to the left and the north of Mt. Rainier where I observed a **chain of nine peculiar looking aircraft** flying from north to south at approximately 9,500 foot elevation and going, seemingly, in a definite direction of about 170 degrees.'

Date and time of first sighting:
24 June, 1947 2:59 pm

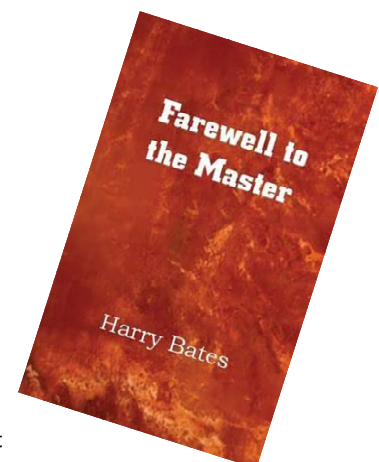
Project 1947, The Kenneth Arnold Page, at
<http://www.project1947.com/fig/ka.htm>

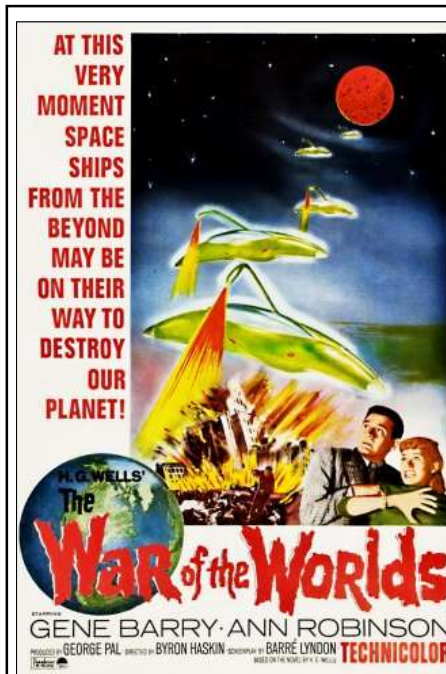


Chicago Sun reporting on the Kenneth Arnold sighting. Perhaps first-use of term 'flying saucer'.



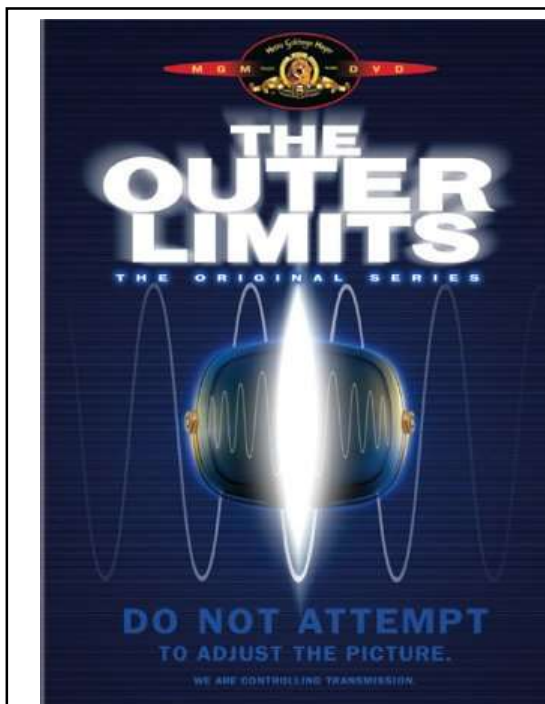
The Day The Earth Stood Still is a 1951 atomic era landmark science-fiction drama about dignified alien who comes to Earth to deliver anti-nuclear warning, stays to learn that his peaceful views are shared by most humans but not all. Poster Image: 20th century Fox.





The War of the Worlds is a 1953 science fiction film from Paramount Pictures, a loose adaptation of the novel of the same name by H.G. Wells, the first of five film adaptations. The novel was set in 1897 and the film was reset in southern California as a commentary on the then-ongoing Cold War and nuclear arms race. Earth is suddenly and unexpectedly invaded by Martians and American scientist Clayton Forrester is sent to find any weakness that will stop them.

Poster Images: Paramount Pictures.



The Outer Limits is an American television series that aired on ABC from 1963 to 1965 as an anthology of self-contained episode, sometimes with a plot twist at the end combining science-fiction and scary 'monsters'.

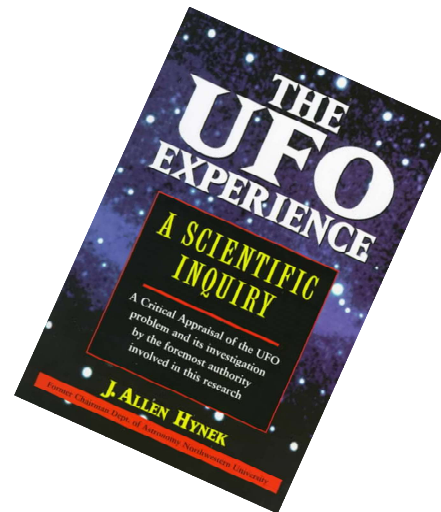
Poster Image: United Artists Television.

'There is nothing wrong with your television set. Do not attempt to adjust the picture. We are controlling transmission. If we wish to make it louder, we will bring up the volume. If we wish to make it softer, we will tune it to a whisper. We will control the horizontal. We will control the vertical. We can roll the image, make it flutter. We can change the focus to a soft blur or sharpen it to crystal clarity. For the next hour, sit quietly and we will control all that you see and hear. We repeat: there is nothing wrong with your television set. You are about to participate in a great adventure. You are about to experience the awe and mystery which reaches from the inner mind to – The Outer Limits.'



Star Trek is an American science fiction entertainment franchise created by Gene Roddenberry and owned by CBS and Paramount Pictures, which debuted in 1966 and ran for three seasons and spawned four spin-off television series, and six feature films.

Poster Image: CBS ad Paramount Pictures.



Close Encounters of The Third Kind is a 1977 American science fiction film written and directed by Stephen Spielberg, which tells the story of Roy Neary, an everyday blue collar worker in Indiana, whose life changes after an encounter with an unidentified flying object.

Poster Image: EMI Films/Wikimedia Commons



E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial is a 1982 American science fiction film co-produced and directed by Stephen Spielberg, written by Melissa Mathison, which tells the story Elliott, a lonely boy who befriends an extra-terrestrial dubbed 'E.T.' who is stranded on earth. He and his siblings help it to return home while keeping it hidden from their mother and the government. Poster Image: John Alvin.



'50 Most Magical Movie Moments'. *Empire*. January 2004. p.127. 'ET's bike flight "cinema's most magical moment"'. Archived from the original on February 2, 2014.



The 20th anniversary version of the film replaces the guns used by the federal agents with walkie-talkies.



The original Apollo 13 prime crew. From left to right are: Commander, James A. Lovell, Command Module pilot, Thomas K. Mattingly and Lunar Module pilot, Fred W. Haise. On the table in front of them are from left to right, **a model of a sextant**, the Apollo 13 insignia, and a model of an **astrolabe**. The sextant and astrolabe are two ancient forms of navigation.



Apollo 13 is a 1995 American docudrama space adventure film directed by Ron Howard, adapted from the book *Lost Moon: The Perilous Voyage of Apollo 13* by astronaut Jim Lovell and Jeffrey Kluger. It depicts the on-board explosion that occurred as astronauts Lovell, Jack Swigert, and Fred Haise set forth on Apollo 13 for America's third Moon landing mission.

Howard went to great lengths to create a technically accurate movie, employing NASA's technical assistance in astronaut and flight controller training for his cast, and even obtaining permission to film scenes aboard a reduced gravity aircraft for realistic depiction of the 'weightlessness' experienced by the astronauts in space. Poster Image: Imagine Entertainment and Universal Pictures.



Gravity is a 2013 British-American science fiction film co-written, co-edited, produced and directed by Alfonso Cuarón. It stars Sandra Bullock and George Clooney as astronauts who are stranded in space after the mid-orbit destruction of their space shuttle, and their subsequent attempt to return to Earth.

Poster Image: Esperanto Filmoj, Heyday Films and Warner Bros. Pictures.

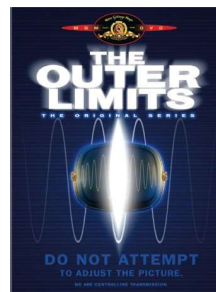
The Sky as 'Other'



The Sky as Politics



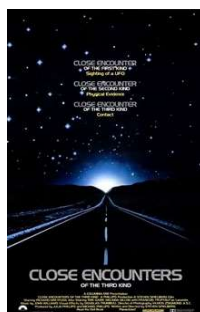
The Sky as Fearful



The Sky as a liminal space for ritual.



The Sky as a Bridge to 'the other'



The Sky as the place that holds the perfect dream (Plato)



The Sky as backdrop to emotions.



Typhoon, 1940. Images: Paramount Pictures.



Ryan's Daughter, 1970. Images: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.



Groundhog Day, 1993. Images: Columbia Pictures.



The Sky as Weather
and Emotions



The new 'alien' is now global warming



Chasing Ice (2012) follows National Geographic photographer James Balog across the Arctic as he deploys time-lapse cameras designed for one purpose: to capture a multi-year record of the world's changing glaciers.



Ice and Sky (2015) is a documentary film directed by Luc Jacquet about the work of **Claude Lorius** who began studying the Antarctic ice in 1957, and, in 1965, was the first scientist to be concerned about global warming.
Reference: *Variety*. 13 December 2016.



Film Music

Begin Again is a 2013 American musical comedy-drama film written and directed by John Carney and starring Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo.

Knightley plays a singer-songwriter who is discovered by a struggling record label executive (Ruffalo) and collaborates with him to produce an album recorded in public locations all over New York City

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Beatriz García, Estela Reynoso, Silvina Pérez Alvarez and Raúl Gabellone, 'Inspiration of astronomy in the movies: a history of a close encounter', eds. Nicholas Campion and Rolf Sinclair, *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 16 nos. 1 and 2, 2012, pp. 357-371.
<http://cultureandcosmos.org/issues/vol16.php>